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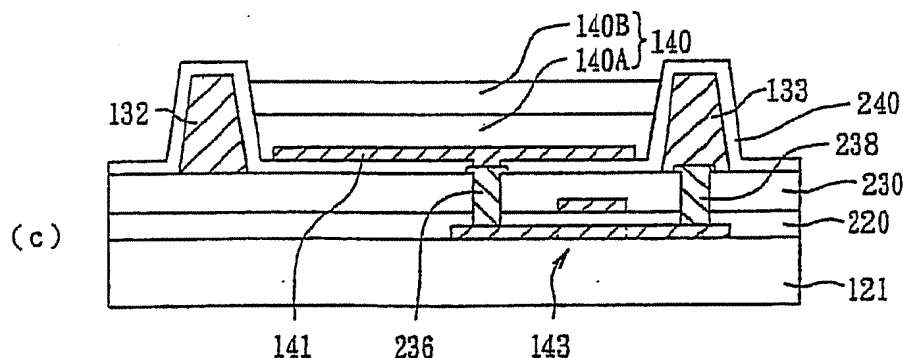
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(54) **Matrix type display device and manufacturing method thereof**

(57) A display device comprises a first electrode
(141) supported by a display substrate (121), a second
electrode (154) arranged over the first electrode and a
light emitting element (140) arranged at a predeter-
mined position and held therebetween. The device fur-

ther comprises a common feeder line (133) for supplying
the light emitting element with a current. An insulation
film (240) is disposed at a peripheral region around the
predetermined position and covers the common feeder
line.

[FIG. 5]



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Description

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof, and particularly to a matrix type display device having a structure in which an optical material such as a fluorescent material (luminescent material), a light modulation material or the like is selectively arranged at predetermined positions on a display substrate, the optical material being liquid at least during coating, and a manufacturing method thereof wherein the optical material can accurately be arranged at the predetermined positions.

Background Art

[0002] Matrix type display devices such as an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), an EL (Electroluminescence) display device, and the like are frequently used as various display devices that are light weight, thin, and have high image quality and high definition. A matrix type display device comprises matrix-formed bus lines, an optical material (luminescent material or light modulation material), and if required, other components.

[0003] In a monochromatic matrix type display device, wiring and electrodes must be arranged in a matrix on the display substrate, but the optical material can be uniformly coated over the entire surface of the display substrate.

[0004] In contrast, for example, when a so-called matrix type color display device is realized by using an EL display device of the type that emits light by itself, it is necessary to arrange three pixel electrodes corresponding to the primary colors RGB of light for each pixel, and coat the optical material corresponding to any one of the primary colors RGB for each pixel electrode. Namely, the optical material must be selectively arranged at the predetermined positions.

[0005] There is thus demand for developing a method of patterning the optical material. Suitable examples of effective patterning methods include etching and coating.

[0006] The etching process is carried out as follows.

[0007] First, a layer of an optical material is formed over the entire surface of the display substrate. Then a resist layer is formed on the optical material layer, exposed to light through a mask and then patterned. Then the optical material layer is patterned by etching in correspondence with the resist pattern.

[0008] However, in this case, a large number of steps are required, and each of the materials and apparatus used is expensive, thereby increasing the cost. Also a large number of steps are required, and each of the steps is complicated, thereby deteriorating throughput. Further, depending upon chemical properties, some optical materials have low resistance to resist and an etch-

ant, and thus these steps are impossible.

[0009] On the other hand, the coating process is carried out as follows.

[0010] First, an optical material is dissolved in a solvent to form a solution, and the thus-formed solution of the optical material is selectively coated at the predetermined positions on the display substrate by an ink jet method or the like. Then, if required, the optical material is solidified by heating, irradiation of light, or the like. In this case, a small number of steps are required, and each of the materials and apparatus used is inexpensive, thereby decreasing the cost. Also, a small number of steps are required, and each of the steps is simple, thereby improving throughput. Further, these steps are possible regardless of the chemical properties of the optical material used as long as a solution of the optical material can be formed.

[0011] The coating patterning method is thought to be easily carried out. However, as a result of experiment, the inventors found that in coating the optical material by the ink jet method, the optical material must be diluted at least several tens of times with a solvent, and thus the solution obtained has high fluidity, thereby causing difficulties in holding the solution at the coating positions until it is completely solidified after coating.

[0012] In other words, patterning precision deteriorates due to the fluidity of the solution of the optical material. For example, the optical material coated in a pixel flows to the adjacent pixels to deteriorate the optical properties of the pixels. Also variations occur in the coating areas in the respective pixels, thereby causing variations in the coating thickness and thus the optical properties of the optical material.

[0013] Although this problem significantly occurs with an optical material for EL display devices or the like, which is liquid during coating and then solidified, the problem also occurs in cases in which a liquid crystal that is liquid both during and after coating is selectively coated on the display substrate.

[0014] The present invention has been achieved in consideration of the unsolved problem of the prior art, and an object of the invention is to provide a matrix type display device in which a liquid optical material can securely be arranged at predetermined positions while maintaining characteristics such as low cost, high throughput, a high degree of freedom of the optical material, etc., and a manufacturing method thereof.

Disclosure of Invention

[0015] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 1 relates to a matrix type display device having a structure in which an optical material is selectively arranged at predetermined positions on a display substrate, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, wherein a difference in height is formed in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions and the

periphery thereof, for selectively coating the optical material.

[0016] The invention in accordance with Claim 1 permits selective arrangement of the optical material at the predetermined positions using the difference of height even if the optical material is liquid during coating. Namely, the matrix type display device in accordance with Claim 1 is a high-quality matrix type display device comprising the optical material accurately arranged at the predetermined positions.

[0017] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 2 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device having a structure in which an optical material is selectively arranged at predetermined positions on a display substrate, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a difference in height for coating the liquid optical material in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof on the display substrate, and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the difference of height.

[0018] The invention in accordance with Claim 2 comprises forming the difference in height before coating the liquid optical material, and is thus capable of preventing the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions from spreading to the peripheries thereof by using the difference in height. As a result, it is possible to improve the patterning precision while maintaining characteristics such as low cost, high throughput, the high degree of freedom of the optical material, etc.

[0019] The invention in accordance with Claim 3 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the difference in height is formed in a concave shape in which each of the predetermined positions is lower than the periphery thereof so that the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid optical material turned upward.

[0020] In the invention in accordance with Claim 3, the surface of the display substrate which is coated with the optical material is turned upward to turn the concave portions formed by the difference in height upward. When the liquid optical material is coated on the insides of the concave portions, the optical material stays in the concave portions due to gravity, and the coated liquid optical material can stay in the concave portions due to gravity, surface tension and the like as long as the amount of the optical material coated is not too large. Therefore, in this state, the optical material can be solidified by, for example, drying to perform patterning with high precision and with no problem.

[0021] The invention in accordance with Claim 4 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the difference in height has a convex shape in

which each of the predetermined positions is higher than the periphery thereof so that the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate that is coated with the optical material turned downward.

[0022] In the invention in accordance with Claim 4, when the surface of the display substrate coated with the optical material is turned downward, the convex portions formed by the difference in height are also turned downward. In coating the liquid optical material on the convex portions, the optical material concentrates on the convex portions due to surface tension, and the coated liquid optical material can stay on the convex portions due to surface tension as long as the amount of the optical material coated is not too large. Therefore, in this state, the optical material can be solidified by, for example, drying to perform patterning with high precision and with no problem.

[0023] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 5 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display substrate; coating the liquid optical material; forming a difference in height in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions on the display substrate and the periphery thereof, for coating the liquid optical material; coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the difference in height; and forming a plurality of second bus lines crossing the first bus lines to cover the optical material.

[0024] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 5 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 2.

[0025] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 6 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display substrate; forming a difference in height in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions on the display substrate and the periphery thereof, for coating the liquid optical material; coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the difference in height; forming a plurality of second bus lines on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer; and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material so that the first bus lines cross the second bus lines.

[0026] In a method of manufacturing a so-called pas-

sive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 6 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 2, and comprises no step of forming a layer for the second bus lines on the upper surface of the optical material disposed, and then etching the layer, thereby decreasing damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step.

[0027] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 7 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming, on the display substrate, wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to each of the predetermined positions, and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring; forming a difference in height in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions on the display substrate and the periphery thereof, for coating the liquid optical material; and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the difference in height.

[0028] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 7 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 2.

[0029] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 8 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a difference in height in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions on the display substrate and the periphery thereof, for coating the liquid optical material; coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the difference in height; forming wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to each of the predetermined positions, and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer; and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material.

[0030] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 8 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 2, and comprises no step of forming a layer for the wiring and a layer for the pixel electrodes on the upper surface of the optical material disposed, and then etching the layers,

thereby decreasing damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step, and damage to the scanning lines, the signal lines, the pixel electrodes or the switching elements due to coating of the optical material.

[0031] The invention in accordance with Claim 9 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 5 or 6, wherein the difference in height is formed by using the first bus lines and has a concave shape in which each of the predetermined positions is lower than the periphery thereof so that in the step of coating the liquid optical material, the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid crystal material turned upward.

[0032] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 9 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 3, and comprises the step of forming a difference in height by using the first bus lines. As a result, the step of forming the first bus lines, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of forming the difference in height, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0033] The invention in accordance with Claim 10 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the difference in height is formed by using the wiring and has a concave shape in which each of the predetermined positions is lower than the periphery thereof so that in the step of coating the liquid optical material, the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid crystal material turned upward.

[0034] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 10 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 3, and comprises the step of forming a difference in height by using the wiring. As a result, part of the whole of the step of forming the wiring can also be used as the step of forming the difference in height, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0035] The invention in accordance with Claim 11 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the difference in height is formed by using the pixel electrodes, and has a convex shape in which each of the predetermined positions is higher than the periphery thereof so that in the step of coating the liquid optical material, the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid crystal material turned downward.

[0036] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accord-

ance with Claim 11 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 4, and comprises the step of forming a difference in height by using the pixel electrodes. As a result, the step of forming the wiring, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of forming the difference in height, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0037] The invention in accordance with Claim 12 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 5 to 8, the method comprising the step of forming an interlevel insulation film, wherein the difference in height is formed by using the interlevel insulation film, and has a concave shape in which each of the predetermined positions is lower than the periphery thereof so that in the step of coating the liquid optical material, the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid crystal material turned upward.

[0038] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device and a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 12 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 3, and comprises the step of forming a difference in height by using the interlevel insulation film. As a result, the step of forming the interlevel insulation film, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of forming the difference in height, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0039] The invention in accordance with Claim 13 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 5 to 8, the method comprising the step of forming a light shielding layer, wherein the difference in height is formed by using the light shielding layer, and has a concave shape in which each of the predetermined positions is lower than the periphery thereof so that in the step of coating the liquid optical material, the liquid optical material is coated at the predetermined positions with the surface of the display substrate coated with the liquid crystal material turned upward.

[0040] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device and a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 13 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 3, and comprises the step of forming a difference in height by using a light shielding layer. As a result, the step of forming the light shielding layer, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of forming the difference in height, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps. The invention in accordance with Claim 14 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3 and 5 to 8, wherein in the step of forming the difference in height, the difference in height is formed by selectively remov-

ing the coated liquid material. Resist or the like can be used as the liquid material. In the use of resist, the resist is coated over the entire surface of the display device by spin coating to form a resist film having an appropriate thickness, followed by exposure and etching of the resist film to form a convex portion corresponding to each of the predetermined positions, whereby the difference in height can be formed.

[0041] The invention in accordance with Claim 14 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3 and 5 to 8, and can simplify the step of forming the difference in height and can easily form a large difference in height while decreasing damage to the base material.

[0042] The invention in accordance with Claim 15 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7, wherein the difference in height is formed on the peeling substrate through the peeling layer in the step of forming the difference in height, and the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate is transferred onto the display substrate.

[0043] The invention in accordance with Claim 15 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7, and comprises the step of transferring the difference in height separately formed on the peeling substrate. Therefore, the invention can simplify the step of forming the difference in height and can easily form a large difference in height while decreasing damage to the base material.

[0044] The invention in accordance with Claim 16 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3, 5 to 10, and 12 to 15, wherein the height d_r of the difference in height satisfies the following equation (1):

$$d_a < d_r \quad (1)$$

wherein d_a is the thickness of a single coat of the liquid optical material.

[0045] The invention in accordance with Claim 16 is capable of preventing the optical material from flowing out to the peripheries of the predetermined positions beyond the concave difference in height without contribution of surface tension of the liquid optical material.

[0046] The invention in accordance with Claim 17 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the following equation (2) is satisfied:

$$V_d/(d_b \cdot r) > E_t \quad (2)$$

wherein V_d is the driving voltage applied to the optical material, d_0 is the total thickness of the respective coatings of the liquid optical material, r is the concentration of the liquid optical material, and E_t is the minimum electric field strength (threshold electric field strength) at which a change in optical properties of the optical material occurs.

[0047] The invention in accordance with Claim 17 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 16, and defines the relation between the coating thickness and the driving voltage, thereby ensuring that the optical material exhibits an electro-optical effect.

[0048] The invention in accordance with Claim 18 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3, 5 to 10, and 12 to 15, wherein the height d_f of the difference in height satisfies the following equation (3):

$$d_f = d_r \quad (3)$$

wherein d_f is the thickness of the optical material at the time of completion.

[0049] The invention in accordance with Claim 18 ensures flatness of the difference in height and the optical material at the time of completion, and uniformity in the optical properties of the optical material, and can prevent a short circuit.

[0050] The invention in accordance with Claim 19 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the thickness at the time of completion satisfies the following equation (4):

$$V_d/d_f > E_t \quad (4)$$

wherein V_d is the driving voltage applied to the optical material, and E_t is the minimum electric field strength (threshold electric field strength) at which a change in optical properties of the optical material occurs.

[0051] The invention in accordance with Claim 19 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 18, and defines the relation between the coating thickness and the driving voltage, thereby ensuring that the optical material exhibits an electro-optical effect.

[0052] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 20 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display

device relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions.

[0053] In the invention in accordance with Claim 20, since the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions is enhanced before the liquid optical material is coated, the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions more easily stays at the predetermined positions than the peripheries thereof, and the difference in lyophilicity between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof is sufficiently increased to prevent the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions from spreading to the peripheries thereof. As a result, it is possible to improve the precision of patterning while maintaining the properties such as low cost, high throughput and the high degree of freedom of the optical material.

[0054] The step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof possibly comprises enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions, enhancing the liquid repellency of the peripheries of the predetermined positions, or performing both methods.

[0055] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 21 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display device, enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display device relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions, and forming a plurality of second bus lines crossing the first bus lines to cover the optical material.

[0056] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 21 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20.

[0057] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 22 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display device, enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display device relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions, forming a plurality of second bus lines on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer, and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material so that the first bus lines

cross the second bus lines.

[0058] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 22 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises no step of forming a layer for the second bus lines on the disposed optical material and etching the layer. It is thus possible to decrease damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step.

[0059] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 23 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming, on the display device, wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to each of the predetermined positions, and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring; enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display device relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions.

[0060] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 23 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20.

[0061] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 24 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display device relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof; coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions; forming wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to the each of the predetermined positions, and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer; and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material.

[0062] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 24 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises no step of forming a layer for wiring and a layer for the pixel electrodes on the optical material disposed and etching these layers. It is thus possible to decrease damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step, and

damage to the scanning lines, the signal lines, the pixel electrodes or the switching elements due to coating of the optical material.

[0063] The invention in accordance with Claim 25 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 21 or 22, wherein a distribution of high liquid repellency is formed along the first bus lines on the display substrate to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0064] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 25 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises forming a distribution of high liquid repellency along the first bus lines. As a result, the step of forming the first bus lines, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0065] The invention in accordance with Claim 26 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 23, wherein a distribution of high liquid repellency is formed along the wiring on the display substrate to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0066] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 26 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises forming a distribution of high liquid repellency along the wiring. As a result, the step of forming the first bus lines, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0067] The invention in accordance with Claim 27 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the lyophilicity of the surfaces of the pixel electrodes on the display substrate are enhanced to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0068] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 27 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises enhancing the lyophilicity of the surfaces of the pixel electrodes. As a result, the step of forming the pixel electrodes, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the periph-

eries thereof, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0069] The invention in accordance with Claim 28 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claims 21 to 24, the method comprising the step of forming an interlevel insulation film, wherein a distribution of high liquid repellency is formed along the interlevel insulation film on the display substrate to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0070] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 28 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises forming a distribution of high liquid repellency along the interlevel insulation film. As a result, the step of forming the interlevel insulation film, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0071] The invention in accordance with Claim 29 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 23, the method comprising the step of forming an interlevel insulation film so that the surfaces of the pixel electrodes are exposed, wherein in forming the interlevel insulation film, a difference in height for coating the liquid optical material is formed in the boundary between the portion where the surface of each of the pixel electrodes is exposed and the periphery thereof, and the liquid repellency of the surface of the interlevel insulation film is enhanced to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0072] In the invention in accordance with Claim 29, the difference in height is formed in such a concave shape as in the invention in accordance with Claim 3 by using the interlevel insulation film before the liquid optical material is coated, and the liquid repellency of the surface of the interlevel insulation film is enhanced to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof. Therefore, the invention in accordance with Claim 29 exhibits the same effects as both the invention in accordance with Claim 3 and the invention in accordance with Claim 20, thereby securely preventing the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions from spreading to the peripheries thereof. As a result, it is possible to further improve the patterning precision while maintaining the properties such as low cost, high throughput and the high degree of freedom of the optical material.

[0073] The invention in accordance with Claim 30 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 21 to 24, the method comprising the step of

forming a light shielding layer, wherein a distribution of high liquid repellency is formed along the light shielding layer on the display substrate to enhance the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0074] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device and a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 30 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 20, and comprises forming a distribution of high liquid repellency along the light shielding layer. As a result, the step of forming the light shielding layer, in whole or in part, can also be used as the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof, thereby suppressing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0075] The invention in accordance with Claim 31 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 20 to 30, wherein a difference in lyophilicity between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof is increased by irradiating ultraviolet rays or plasma of O₂, CF₃, Ar or the like.

[0076] The invention in accordance with Claim 31 is capable of easily enhancing the liquid repellency of the surface of the interlevel insulation film, for example.

[0077] The invention in accordance with Claim 32 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2 to 19, the method comprising the step of enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions on the display substrate relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof.

[0078] The invention in accordance with Claim 33 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 20 to 28 and 31, the method comprising the step of forming a difference in height in the boundary between each of the predetermined positions on the display substrate and the periphery thereof, for coating the liquid optical material.

[0079] Like the invention in accordance with Claim 29, the invention in accordance with Claim 32 or 33 comprises forming a predetermined difference in height and enhancing the lyophilicity at the predetermined positions relative to the lyophilicity of the peripheries thereof before the liquid optical material is coated. Therefore, the invention in accordance with Claim 32 or 33 exhibits the same effects as both the invention in accordance with Claim 3 and the invention in accordance with Claim 20, thereby securely preventing the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions from spreading to the peripheries thereof. As a result, it is possible to further improve the patterning precision while maintaining the properties such as low cost, high throughput and the high degree of freedom of the optical material.

[0080] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 34 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, and selectively coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions by using the potential distribution.

[0081] The invention in accordance with Claim 34 comprises forming a potential distribution before the liquid optical material is coated so that the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions can be prevented from spreading to the peripheries thereof by the potential distribution. As a result, it is possible to improve the patterning precision while maintaining the properties such as low cost, high throughput and the high degree of freedom of the optical material.

[0082] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 35 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions after charging the optical material to a potential where repulsive force is generated between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof.

[0083] The invention in accordance with Claim 35 comprises generating repulsive force between the liquid optical material that is coated at the predetermined positions and the peripheries thereof so as to prevent the liquid optical material coated at the predetermined positions from spreading to the peripheries thereof. As a result, it is possible to improve the patterning precision while maintaining the properties such as low cost, high throughput and the high degree of freedom of the optical material.

[0084] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 36 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display substrate, forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions after charging the optical material to a potential where re-

pulsive force is generated between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof, and forming a plurality of second bus lines crossing the first bus lines to cover the optical material.

[0085] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 36 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 35.

[0086] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 37 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a plurality of first bus lines on the display substrate, forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions after charging the optical material to a potential at which repulsive force is generated between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof, forming a plurality of second bus lines on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer, and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material so that the first bus lines cross the second bus lines.

[0087] In a method of manufacturing a so-called passive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 37 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 35, and comprises no step of forming a layer for the second bus lines on the upper surface of the disposed optical material and etching the layer, thereby decreasing damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step.

[0088] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 38 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming on the display substrate wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to each of the predetermined positions and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring, forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, and coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions after charging the optical material to a potential at which repulsive force is generated between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof.

[0089] In a method of manufacturing a so-called ac-

tive matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 38 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 35.

[0090] In order to achieve the object, the invention in accordance with Claim 39 relates to a method of manufacturing a matrix type display device comprising an optical material selectively disposed at predetermined positions on a display device, the optical material being liquid at least during coating at the predetermined positions, the method comprising the steps of forming a potential distribution on the display substrate so that the potential at each of the predetermined positions is different from that of the periphery thereof, coating the liquid optical material at the predetermined positions after charging the optical material to a potential at which repulsive force is generated between each of the predetermined positions and the periphery thereof, forming wiring including a plurality of scanning lines and signal lines, a pixel electrode corresponding to each of the predetermined positions and switching elements for controlling the states of the pixel electrodes in accordance with the state of the wiring on a peeling substrate through a peeling layer, and transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate coated with the optical material.

[0091] In a method of manufacturing a so-called active matrix type display device, the invention in accordance with Claim 39 exhibits the same operation and effect as the invention in accordance with Claim 35, and comprises no step of forming a layer for the wiring and a layer for the pixel electrodes on the upper surface of the disposed optical material and etching these layers, thereby decreasing damage to the base material such as the optical material or the like in the subsequent step, and damage to the scanning lines, the signal lines, the pixel electrodes or the switching elements due to coating of the optical material.

[0092] The invention in accordance with Claim 40 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 35 to 39, wherein the potential distribution is formed so that at least the peripheries of the predetermined positions on the display substrate are charged.

[0093] The invention in accordance with Claim 40 is capable of securely generating a repulsive force by charging the liquid optical material.

[0094] The invention in accordance with Claim 41 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 36 or 37, wherein the potential distribution is formed by applying a voltage to the first bus lines.

[0095] The invention in accordance with Claim 42 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 38, wherein the potential distribution is formed by applying a voltage to the wiring.

[0096] The invention in accordance with Claim 43 re-

lates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 38, wherein the potential distribution is formed by applying a voltage to the pixel electrodes.

[0097] The invention in accordance with Claim 44 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with Claim 38, wherein the potential distribution is formed by successively applying a voltage to the scanning lines, and at the same time, applying a voltage to the signal lines, and applying a voltage to the pixel electrodes through the switching elements.

[0098] The invention in accordance with Claim 45 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 35 to 39, comprising the step of forming a light shielding layer so that the potential distribution is formed by applying a voltage to the light shielding layer.

[0099] The invention in accordance with any one of Claims 41 to 45 comprises forming the potential distribution by using a component of the matrix type display device, and is thus capable of preventing an increase in the number of the steps.

[0100] The invention in accordance with Claim 46 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 34 to 45, wherein the potential distribution is formed so that each of the predetermined positions has a polarity opposite to that of the periphery thereof.

[0101] In the invention in accordance with Claim 46, attractive force is generated between the liquid optical material and each of the predetermined positions, and repulsive force is generated between the liquid optical material and the peripheries of the predetermined positions, thereby making the optical material easy to stay at the predetermined positions, and improving the patterning precision.

[0102] In the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2 to 46, for example, as in the invention in accordance with Claim 47, an inorganic or organic fluorescent material (luminescent material) can be used as the optical material. As the fluorescent material (luminescent material), an EL (Electroluminescent) material is suitable. In order to obtain the liquid optical material, the optical material may be dissolved in an appropriate solvent.

[0103] In the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 2, 3, 5 to 10, 12 to 31, and 33 to 46, for example, as in the invention in accordance with Claim 48, a liquid crystal can also be used as the optical material.

[0104] The invention in accordance with Claim 49 relates to the method of manufacturing a matrix type display device of the invention in accordance with any one of Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 23, 24, 26, 27, 38, 39 and 42 to 44, wherein the switching elements are formed by us-

ing amorphous silicon, polycrystalline silicon formed by a high temperature process at 600°C or higher, or polycrystalline silicon formed by a low temperature process at 600°C or lower.

[0105] The invention in accordance with Claim 49 can also improve the precision of patterning of the optical material. Particularly, in the use of polycrystalline silicon formed by a low temperature process, it is possible to decrease the cost by using a glass substrate, and improve performance due to high mobility.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0106]

Fig. 1 is a diagram of a circuit showing a portion of a display device in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view showing the plane structure of a pixel region.

Figs. 3 to 5 are sectional views showing the flow of a manufacturing process in accordance with the first embodiment.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view showing a modified embodiment of the first embodiment.

Fig. 7 is a plan view and sectional view showing a second embodiment.

Fig. 8 is a sectional view showing a portion of a manufacturing process in accordance with a third embodiment.

Fig. 9 is a sectional view showing a portion of a manufacturing process in accordance with a fourth embodiment.

Fig. 10 is a sectional view showing a portion of a manufacturing process in accordance with a fifth embodiment.

Fig. 11 is a sectional view showing a portion of a manufacturing process in accordance with a sixth embodiment.

Fig. 12 is a sectional view showing a portion of a manufacturing process in accordance with an eighth embodiment.

Fig. 13 is a sectional view showing a modified embodiment of the eighth embodiment.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[0107] Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described below on the basis of the drawings.

(1) First embodiment

[0108] Figs. 1 to 5 are drawings illustrating a first embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof of the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. Specifically, these drawings show an embodiment in which a luminescent

material as an optical material is coated, and scanning lines, signal lines and common current supply lines serve as wiring.

[0109] Fig. 1 is a drawing of a circuit showing a portion of a display device 1 in this embodiment. The display device 1 comprises wiring including a plurality of scanning lines 131, a plurality of signal lines 132 extending in the direction crossing the scanning lines 131, and a plurality of common current supply lines 133 extending parallel to the signal lines 132; and a pixel region 1A provided for each of the intersections of the scanning lines 131 and the signal lines 132.

[0110] For the signal lines 132, a data side driving circuit 3 comprising a shift register, a level shifter, a video line, and an analog switch is provided. For the scanning lines 131, a scanning side driving circuit 4 comprising a shift register and a level shifter is provided. Provided in each pixel region 1A are: a switching thin film transistor 142 in which a scanning signal is supplied to a gate electrode through a scanning line 131, a storage capacitor cap for holding an image signal supplied from a signal line 132 through the switching thin film transistor 142, a current thin film transistor 143 in which the image signal held by the storage capacitor cap is supplied to a gate electrode, a pixel electrode 141 to which a driving current flows from a common current supply line 133 at the time of electrical connection to the common current supply line 133 through the current thin film transistor 143, and a light emitting element 140 held between the pixel electrode 141 and a reflection electrode 154.

[0111] In this configuration, when the switching thin film transistor 142 is turned on by driving the scanning lines 131, the potential of the signal lines 132 is held by the storage capacitor cap, and the on-off state of the current thin film transistor 143 is determined in accordance with the state of the storage capacitor cap. Then a current flows to the pixel electrode 141 from the common current supply lines 133 through the channel of the current thin film transistor 143, and a current flows to the reflection electrode 154 through the light emitting element 140, whereby the light emitting element 140 emits light in accordance with the amount of the current flowing therethrough.

[0112] Each of the pixel regions 1A has a planar structure in which the pixel electrode 141 having a rectangular planar shape is arranged so that the four sides thereof are surrounded by a signal line 132, a common current supply line 133, a scanning line 131 and a scanning line for another pixel electrode, as shown in Fig. 2 which is an enlarged plan view with the reflection electrode and the light emitting element removed.

[0113] Figs. 3 to 5 are sectional views successively showing the steps for manufacturing the pixel region 1A, and correspond to a section taken along line A-A in Fig. 2. The process for manufacturing the pixel region 1A is described with reference to Figs. 3 to 5.

[0114] First, as shown in Fig. 3(a), on a transparent display substrate 121 is formed a base protective film

(not shown) comprising a silicon oxide film having a thickness of about 2000 to 5000 angstroms by a plasma CVD method using TEOS (tetraethoxysilane) and oxygen gas as raw material gases according to demand. Next, the temperature of the display substrate 121 is set to about 350°C, and on the surface of the base protective film is formed a semiconductor film 200 comprising an amorphous silicon film having a thickness of about 300 to 700 angstroms by the plasma CVD method. The semiconductor film 200 comprising an amorphous silicon film is then subjected to the crystallization step by laser annealing or solid phase growth to crystallize the semiconductor film 200 to a polysilicon film. In laser annealing, for example, an excimer laser line beam having a long dimension of 400 mm and an output strength of, for example, 200 mJ/cm² is used. The line beam is scanned so that a portion thereof corresponding to 90% of the laser strength peak in the direction of the short dimension is applied to each of the regions.

[0115] Next, as shown in Fig. 3(b), the semiconductor film 200 is patterned to form an island-like semiconductor film 210, and on the surface of the semiconductor film 210 is formed a gate insulating film 220, comprising a silicon oxide film or nitride film having a thickness of about 600 to 1500 angstroms, by the plasma CVD method using TEOS (tetraethoxysilane) and oxygen gas as raw material gases. Although the semiconductor film 210 is used for the channel region and source/drain regions of the current thin film transistor 143, another semiconductor film is also formed for forming the channel region and source/drain regions of the switching thin film transistor 142 in another sectional view. Namely, in the manufacturing process shown in Figs. 3 to 5, two types of transistors 142 and 143 are simultaneously formed, but both transistors are formed according to the same procedure. Therefore, with respect to the transistors, only the current thin film transistor 143 is described below, and description of the switching thin film transistor 142 is omitted.

[0116] Next, as shown in Fig. 3(c), a conductive film comprising a metallic film of aluminum, tantalum, molybdenum, titanium, tungsten, or the like is formed by a sputtering method, and then patterned to form a gate electrode 143A.

[0117] In this state, a high concentration of phosphorus ions is implanted to form source and drain regions 143a and 143b in the silicon thin film 210 in self-alignment to the gate electrode 143. A portion into which the impurity is not introduced serves as a channel region 143c.

[0118] Next, as shown in Fig. 3(d), an interlevel insulation film 230 is formed, contact holes 232 and 234 are formed, and then trunk electrodes 236 and 238 are buried in the contact holes 232 and 234, respectively.

[0119] Next, as shown in Fig. 3(e), on the interlevel insulation film 230 are formed a signal line 132, a common current supply line 133 and a scanning line (not shown in Fig. 3). Each of the signal lines 132, the com-

mon current supply lines 133 and the scanning lines is formed sufficiently thick regardless of the required thickness as wiring. Specifically, each of the lines is formed to a thickness of about 1 to 2 μm. The trunk electrode 238 and each of the lines may be formed in the same step. In this case, the trunk electrode 238 is formed of an ITO film which will be described below.

[0120] Then an interlevel insulation film 240 is formed to cover the upper surfaces of the lines, a contact hole 242 is formed at a position corresponding to the trunk electrode 236, and an ITO film is formed to fill the contact hole 242 therewith, followed by patterning of the ITO film to form a pixel electrode 141 electrically connected to the source and drain region 143a at the predetermined position surrounded by the signal line 132, the common current supply line 133 and the scanning line.

[0121] In Fig. 3 (e), the portion between the signal line 132 and the common current supply line 133 corresponds to the predetermined position where the optical material is arranged. A difference in height 111 is formed between the predetermined position and the periphery thereof by the signal line 132 and the common current supply line 133. Specifically, the difference in height 111 is formed in a concave shape in which the predetermined position is lower than the periphery thereof.

[0122] Next, as shown in Fig. 4(a), a liquid (a solution in a solvent) optical material (precursor) 114A for forming a hole injection layer corresponding to a lower layer of the light emitting element 140 is discharged by an ink jet head method with the upper side of the display substrate 121 turned upward to selectively coat the optical material on the region (the predetermined position) surrounded by the difference in height 111. Since detailed contents of the ink jet method are not included in the gist of the present invention, the contents are omitted (For such a method, refer to Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication Nos. 56-13184 and 2-167751, for example).

[0123] Materials for forming the hole injection layer include polyphenylenevinylene obtained from polytetrahydrothiophenylphenylene as a polymer precursor, 1,1-bis-(4-N,N-ditolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane, tris (8-hydroxyquinolynol) aluminum, and the like.

[0124] At this time, although the liquid precursor 114A has high fluidity and tends to horizontally spread, the difference in height 111 is formed to surround the coating position, thereby preventing the liquid precursor 114A from spreading to the outside of the predetermined position beyond the difference in height 111 as long as the amount of the liquid precursor 114A coated in a single application is not excessively increased.

[0125] Next, as shown in Fig. 4(b), the solvent of the liquid precursor 114A is evaporated by heating or light irradiation to form a thin, solid hole injection layer 140a on the pixel electrode 141. Depending upon the concentration of the liquid precursor 114A, only a thin hole injection layer 140a is formed. Therefore, where a thicker hole injection layer 140a is required, the steps shown in Figs. 4(a) and (b) are repeatedly executed a necessary

number of times to form the hole injection layer 140A having a sufficient thickness, as shown in Fig. 4(c).

[0126] Next, as shown in Fig. 5(a), a liquid (a solution in a solvent) of an optical material (organic fluorescent material) 114B for forming an organic semiconductor film corresponding to an upper layer of the light emitting element 140 is discharged by the ink jet head method with the upper surface of the display substrate 121 turned upward to selectively coat the optical material on the region (the predetermined position) surrounded by the difference in height 111.

[0127] Organic fluorescent materials include cyanopolyphenylenevinylene, polyphenylenevinylene, polyalkylphenylene, 2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-11-oxo-1H,5H,11H (1) benzopyrano[6,7,8-ij]-quinolizine-10-carboxylic acid, 1,1-bis-(4-N,N-ditolylaminophenyl)cyclohexane, 2-13',4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-3, 5, 7-trihydroxy-1-benzopyrylium perchlorate, tris (8-hydroxyquinolynol) aluminum, 2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-9-methyl-11-oxo-1H,5H,11H (1) benzopyrano[6,7,8-ij]-quinolizine, aromatic diamine derivatives (TDP), oxydiazole dimers (OXD), oxydiazole derivatives (PBD), distyrylarylene derivatives (DSA), quinolynol metal complexes, beryllium-benzoquinolynol derivatives (Bebq), triphenylamine derivatives (MTDA-TA), distyryl derivatives, pyrazoline dimers, rubrene, quinacridone, triazole derivatives, polyphenylene, polyalkylfluorene, polyalkylthiophene, azomethine zinc complexes, porphyrin zinc complexes, benzoxazole zinc complexes, phenanthrolineeuropium complexes, and the like.

[0128] At this time, although the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B has high fluidity and tends to horizontally spread, the difference in height 111 is formed to surround the coating position, thereby preventing the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B from spreading to the outside of the predetermined position beyond the difference in height 111 as long as the amount of the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B coated in a single application is not excessively increased.

[0129] Next, as shown in Fig. 5(b), the solvent of the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B is evaporated by heating or light irradiation to form a solid organic semiconductor thin film 140b on the hole injection layer 140A. Depending upon the concentration of the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B, only a thin organic semiconductor film 140b is formed. Therefore, where a thicker organic semiconductor layer 140b is required, the steps shown in Figs. 5(a) and (b) are repeatedly executed a necessary number of times to form the organic semiconductor film 140B having a sufficient thickness, as shown in Fig. 5(c).

[0130] The hole injection layer 140A and the organic semiconductor film 140B constitute the light emitting element 140. Finally, as shown in Fig. 5(d), the reflection electrode 154 is formed over the entire surface of the display substrate 121 or in stripes.

[0131] In this embodiment, lines such as the signal line 132, the common current supply line 133, and the

like are formed to surround the processing position where the light emitting element 140 is arranged, and are formed to have a thickness larger than the normal thickness to form the difference in height 111, and the liquid precursor 114A and the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B are selectively coated. Therefore, this embodiment has the advantage that the patterning precision of the light emitting element 140 is high.

[0132] Although the formation of the difference in height 111 causes the reflection electrode 154 to have a surface with relatively large unevenness, the possibility of producing a trouble such as disconnection or the like is significantly decreased by increasing the thickness of the reflection electrode 154 to some extent.

[0133] In addition, since the difference in height 111 is formed by using the lines such as the signal line 132, the common current supply line 133, and the like, a new step is not added, and the manufacturing process is not significantly complicated.

[0134] In order to securely prevent the liquid precursor 114A and the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B from flowing out from the inside of the difference in height 111, the following relation is preferably established between the coating thickness d_a of the liquid precursor 114A and the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B and the height d_r of the difference in height 111.

$$d_a < d_r \quad (1)$$

[0135] However, when the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B is coated, the hole injection layer 140A has already been formed, and thus the height d_r of the difference in height 111 must be considered as a value obtained by subtracting the thickness of the hole injection layer 140A from the initial thickness.

[0136] Also, equation (1) is satisfied, and the following relation is established between the driving voltage V_d applied to the organic semiconductor film 140B, the total thickness d_b of the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B/ the concentration r of the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B, and the minimum electric field strength E_t (threshold electric field strength) at which a change in optical properties of the organic semiconductor film 140B occurs.

$$V_d / (d_b \cdot r) > E_t \quad (2)$$

In this case, the relation between the coating thickness and the driving voltage is defined, and it is ensured that the organic semiconductor film 140B exhibits an electro-optical effect.

[0137] On the other hand, in order to ensure the flatness of the difference in height 111 and the light emitting element 140 and uniformity in changes in the optical properties of the organic semiconductor film 140B, and

prevent short circuit, the following relation may be established between the thickness d_f of the light emitting element 140 at the time of completion and the height d_r of the difference in height 111:

$$d_f = d_r \quad (3)$$

[0138] In addition, if equation (3) is satisfied, and the following equation (4) is satisfied, the relation between the thickness of the light emitting element 140 at the time of completion and the driving voltage is defined, and it is ensured that the organic fluorescent material exhibits an electro-optical effect.

$$V_d/d_f > E_t \quad (4)$$

[0139] However, in this case, the thickness d_f is the thickness of the organic semiconductor film 140B at the time of completion, not the thickness of the entire light emitting element 140.

[0140] The optical material which forms the upper layer of the light emitting layer 140 is not limited to the organic fluorescent material 114B, and an inorganic fluorescent material may be used.

[0141] Each of the transistors 142 and 143 as switching elements is preferably made of polycrystalline silicon formed by a low temperature process at 600°C or less, thereby achieving low cost by using a glass substrate, and high performance due to high mobility. The switching elements may be made of amorphous silicon or polycrystalline silicon formed by a high temperature process at 600°C or higher.

[0142] Besides the switching thin film transistor 142 and the current thin film transistor 143, another transistor may be provided, or a system of driving by only one transistor may be used.

[0143] The difference in height 111 may be formed by using the first bus lines in a passive matrix display device, the scanning lines 131 in an active matrix display device, or the light shielding layer.

[0144] In the light emitting element 140, the hole injection layer 140A may be omitted, though the efficiency of light emission (rate of hole injection) slightly deteriorates. Alternatively, an electron injection layer is formed between the organic semiconductor film 140B and the reflection electrode 154 in place of the hole injection layer 140A, or both the hole injection layer and the electron injection layer may be formed.

[0145] Although, in this embodiment, the entire light emitting element 140 is selectively arranged in consideration of color display, for example, in a monochrome display device 1, the organic semiconductor film 140B may be uniformly formed over the entire surface of the display substrate 121, as shown in Fig. 6. However, even in this case, the hole injection layer 140A must be

selectively arranged at each of the predetermined positions in order to prevent crosstalk, and thus it is significantly effective to coat the optical material by using the difference in height 111.

(2) Second embodiment

[0146] Fig. 7 is a drawing showing a second embodiment of the present invention in which a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to a passive matrix type display device using an EL display device.

[0147] Fig. 7 (a) is a plan view showing the arrangement of a plurality of first bus lines 300 and a plurality of second bus lines 310 arranged perpendicularly to the first bus lines 300, and Fig. 7 (b) is a sectional view taken along line B-B in Fig. 7 (a). The same components as the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals, and description thereof is omitted. Since details of the manufacturing process are also the same as the first embodiment, the process is not shown in the drawings nor described.

[0148] Namely, in this embodiment, an insulation film 320 of SiO_2 , for example, is arranged to surround the predetermined position where the light emitting element 140 is disposed, to form the difference in height 111 between the predetermined position and the periphery thereof.

[0149] Like the first embodiment, this structure is capable of preventing the liquid precursor 114A and the liquid organic fluorescent material 114B from flowing out to the periphery during selective coating, and has the advantage of achieving high-precision patterning.

(3) Third embodiment

[0150] Fig. 8 is a drawing showing a third embodiment of the present invention in which, like in the first embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. Specifically, the difference in height 111 is formed by using the pixel electrode 141, thereby permitting high-precision patterning. The same components as the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. Fig. 8 is a sectional view showing an intermediate step of the manufacturing process, and the steps before and after this step are not shown nor described because they are substantially the same as the first embodiment.

[0151] Namely, in this embodiment, the pixel electrode 141 is formed to have a thickness larger than a normal thickness to form the difference in height 111 between the pixel electrode 141 and the periphery thereof. In other words, in this embodiment, the difference in height is formed in a convex shape in which the pixel electrode 141 later coated with the optical material is

higher than the periphery thereof.

[0152] Like in the first embodiment, in order to form the hole injection layer corresponding to the lower layer of the light emitting element 140, the liquid (a solution in a solvent) optical material (precursor) 114A is discharged to coat the optical material on the upper surface of the pixel electrode 141.

[0153] However, unlike in the first embodiment, the liquid precursor 114A is coated on the display substrate while the display substrate is reversed, i.e., in the state where the upper surface of the pixel electrode 141 that is coated with the precursor 114A is turned downward.

[0154] As a result, the liquid precursor 114A stays on the upper surface of the pixel electrode due to gravity and surface tension, and does not spread to the periphery thereof. Therefore, the liquid precursor 114A can be solidified by heating or light irradiation to form the same thin hole injection layer as shown in Fig. 4(b), and this step is repeated to form the hole injection layer. The organic semiconductor film can also be formed by the same method.

[0155] In this way, in this embodiment, the liquid optical material is coated by using the difference in height 111 formed in a convex shape, thereby improving patterning precision of the light emitting element.

[0156] The amount of the liquid optical material staying on the upper surface of the pixel electrode 141 may be adjusted by using inertial force such as centrifugal force or the like.

(4) Fourth embodiment

[0157] Fig. 9 is a drawing showing a fourth embodiment of the present invention in which like in the first embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. The same components as the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. Fig. 9 is a sectional view showing an intermediate step of the manufacturing process, and the steps before and after this step are not shown nor described because they are substantially the same as the first embodiment.

[0158] Namely, in this embodiment, first the reflection electrode 154 is formed on the display substrate 121, and then the insulation film 320 is formed on the reflection electrode 154 to surround the predetermined position where the light emitting element 140 is arranged later, and to form the difference in height 111 in a concave shape in which the predetermined position is lower than the periphery thereof.

[0159] Like in the first embodiment, the liquid optical material is then selectively coated in the region surrounded by the difference in height 111 by the ink jet method to form the light emitting element 140.

[0160] On the other hand, scanning lines 131, signal lines 132, pixel electrodes 141, switching thin film transistors 142, current thin film transistors 143 and an in-

sulation film 240 are formed on a peeling substrate 122 through a peeling layer 152.

[0161] Finally, the structure peeled off from the peeling layer 122 on the peeling substrate 122 is transferred onto the display substrate 121.

[0162] In this embodiment, the liquid optical material is coated by using the difference in height 111, thereby permitting patterning with high precision.

[0163] Further, in this embodiment, it is possible to decrease damage to the base material such as the light emitting element 140 in subsequent steps, or damage to the scanning lines 131, the signal lines 132, the pixel electrodes 141, the switching thin film transistors 142, the current thin film transistors 143 or the insulation film 240, due to coating of the optical material.

[0164] Although, in this embodiment, an active matrix type display device is described, a passive matrix type display device may be used.

(5) Fifth embodiment

[0165] Fig. 10 is a drawing showing a fifth embodiment of the present invention in which like in the first embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. The same components as the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. Fig. 10 is a sectional view showing an intermediate step of the manufacturing process, and the steps before and after this step are not shown nor described because they are substantially the same as the first embodiment.

[0166] Namely, in this embodiment, the difference in height 111 is formed in a concave shape by using the interlevel insulation film 240 to obtain the same operation and effect as the first embodiment.

[0167] Also, since the difference in height 111 is formed by using the interlevel insulation film 240, a new step is not added, and thus the manufacturing process is not significantly complicated.

(6) Sixth embodiment

[0168] Fig. 11 is a drawing showing a sixth embodiment of the present invention in which like in the first embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. The same components as the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. Fig. 11 is a sectional view showing an intermediate step of the manufacturing process, and the steps before and after this step are not shown and described because they are substantially the same as the first embodiment.

[0169] Namely, in this embodiment, the difference in height is not used for improving patterning precision, but the hydrophilicity of the predetermined position where the liquid optical material is coated is enhanced relative

to the hydrophilicity of the periphery thereof to prevent the coated liquid optical material from spreading to the periphery.

[0170] Specifically, as shown in Fig. 11, the interlevel insulation film 240 is formed, and then an amorphous silicon layer 155 is formed on the upper surface of the interlevel insulation film 240. Since the amorphous silicon layer 155 has high water repellency relative to ITO which forms the pixel electrode 141, a distribution of water repellency and hydrophilicity is formed in which the hydrophilicity of the surface of the pixel electrode 141 is high relative to the hydrophilicity of the periphery thereof.

[0171] Like in the first embodiment, the liquid optical material is then selectively coated on the upper surface of the pixel electrode 141 by the ink jet method to form the light emitting element 140, and finally the reflection electrode is formed.

[0172] In this way, even in this embodiment, the liquid optical material is coated after a desired distribution of water repellency and hydrophilicity is formed, and thus the patterning precision can be improved.

[0173] Of course, this embodiment can also be applied to a passive matrix type display device.

[0174] Also this embodiment may comprise the step of transferring the structure formed on the peeling substrate through the peeling layer 152 onto the display substrate 121.

[0175] Although, in this embodiment, the desired distribution of water repellency and hydrophilicity is formed by using the amorphous silicon layer 155, the distribution of water repellency and hydrophilicity may be formed by using a metal, an anodic oxide film, an insulation film of polyimide, silicon oxide, or the like, or other materials. In a passive matrix display device, the distribution may be formed by using the first bus lines, and in an active matrix type display device, the distribution may be formed by using the scanning lines 131, the signal lines 132, the pixel electrodes 141, the insulation film 240 or the light shielding layer.

[0176] Although, in this embodiment, description is made on the assumption that the liquid optical material is an aqueous solution, a solution of an optical material in another liquid may be used. In this case, liquid repellency and hydrophilicity to this solution may be required.

(7) Seventh embodiment

[0177] A seventh embodiment of the present invention has the same sectional structure as the fifth embodiment shown in Fig. 10, and is thus described with reference to Fig. 10.

[0178] Namely, in this embodiment, the interlevel insulation film 240 is formed by using SiO_2 , and the surface of the interlevel insulation film 240 is irradiated with ultraviolet rays. Then the surface of the pixel electrode 141 is exposed, and the liquid optical material is selectively coated thereon.

[0179] In this manufacturing process, not only the difference in height 111 is formed, but also a distribution of high liquid repellency is formed along the surface of the interlevel insulation film 240, thereby enabling the coated liquid optical material to easily stay at the predetermined position due to both effects, i.e., the difference in height 111 and the liquid repellency of the interlevel insulation film 240. Namely, since the effects of both the fifth embodiment and the sixth embodiment are exhibited, the patterning precision of the light emitting element 140 can further be improved.

[0180] The time of ultraviolet irradiation may be before or after the surface of the pixel electrode 141 is exposed, and may be appropriately selected in accordance with the material for forming the interlevel insulation film 240 and the material for forming the pixel electrode 141. Where ultraviolet irradiation is carried out before the surface of the pixel electrode 141 is exposed, since the inner wall of the difference in height 111 has low liquid repellency, the liquid optical material advantageously stays in the region surrounded by the difference in height 111. Conversely, where ultraviolet irradiation is carried out after the surface of the pixel electrode 141 is exposed, it is necessary to perform vertical irradiation of ultraviolet rays so as to prevent an increase in the liquid repellency of the inner wall of the difference in height 111. However, since ultraviolet irradiation is performed after the etching step for exposing the surface of the pixel electrode 141, there is the advantage of eliminating the possibility that the liquid repellency deteriorates in the etching step.

[0181] As the material for forming the interlevel insulation film 240, for example, photoresist or polyimide may be used. These materials have the advantage that the film can be formed by spin coating.

[0182] For some materials forming the interlevel insulation film 240, liquid repellency may be enhanced by irradiation of plasma of O_2 , CF_3 , Ar or the like, for example, in place of ultraviolet irradiation.

(8) Eighth embodiment

[0183] Fig. 12 is a drawing showing an eighth embodiment of the present invention in which, like in the first embodiment, a matrix type display device and a manufacturing method thereof in accordance with the present invention are applied to an active matrix type EL display device. The same components as the above embodiments are denoted by the same reference numerals. Fig. 12 is a sectional view showing an intermediate step of the manufacturing process, and the steps before and after this step are not shown nor described because they are substantially the same as the first embodiment.

[0184] Namely, in this embodiment, neither the difference in height nor the distribution of liquid repellency and hydrophilicity is used for improving the patterning precision, but the patterning precision is improved by using attraction force and repulsive force due to a potential.

[0185] As shown in Fig. 12, the signals lines 132 and the common current supply lines 133 are driven, and the transistors not shown are turned on and off to form a potential distribution in which the pixel electrode 141 has a negative potential, and the interlevel insulation film 240 has a positive potential. Then the positively charged liquid optical material 114 is selectively coated at the predetermined position by the ink jet method.

[0186] In this way, in this embodiment, a desired potential distribution is formed on the display substrate 121, and the liquid optical material is selectively coated by using attraction force and repulsive force between the potential distribution and the positively charged liquid optical material 114, thereby improving the patterning precision.

[0187] Particularly, in this embodiment, since the liquid optical material 114 is charged, the effect of improving the patterning precision is further increased by using not only spontaneous polarization but also electric charge.

[0188] Although in this embodiment the invention is applied to an active matrix type display device, the invention can also be applied to a passive matrix type display device.

[0189] This embodiment may further comprise the step of transferring the structure formed on the peeling substrate 121 through the peeling layer 152 onto the display substrate 121.

[0190] Also, in this embodiment, the desired potential distribution is formed by successively applying a potential to the scanning lines 131, and at the same time, applying a potential to the signal lines 132 and the common current supply lines 133, and applying a potential to the pixel electrodes 141 through the switching thin film transistor 142 and the current thin film transistor 143. Since the potential distribution is formed by using the scanning lines 131, the signal lines 132, the common current supply lines 133 and the pixel electrodes 141, an increase in the number of the steps can be suppressed. In a passive matrix type display device, the potential distribution may be formed by using the first bus lines or the light shielding layer.

[0191] Although, in this embodiment, a potential is applied both the pixel electrode 141 and the peripheral interlevel insulation film 240, the present invention is not limited to this. For example, as shown in Fig. 13, a positive potential may be applied only to the interlevel insulation film 240, with no potential applied to the pixel electrode 141, and then the liquid optical material 114 may be coated after being positively charged. In this case, since the liquid optical material 114 can securely be maintained in a positively charged state after coating, it is possible to securely prevent the liquid optical material 114 from flowing out to the periphery due to the repulsive force between the optical material and the peripheral interlevel insulation film 240.

[0192] Unlike in each of the above embodiments, for example, the difference in height 111 may be formed by

coating a liquid material or forming a material on the peeling substrate through the peeling layer and then transferring the structure peeled off from the peeling layer on the peeling substrate onto the display substrate.

[0193] Although, in each of the above embodiments, an organic or inorganic EL material is used as the optical material, the optical material is not limited to these materials, and may be a liquid crystal.

10 Industrial Applicability

[0194] As described above, in the present invention, since a liquid optical material is coated by using a difference in height, a desired distribution of liquid repellency and lyophilicity, or a desired potential distribution, there is the effect of improving the patterning precision of the optical material.

20 Claims

1. A display device comprising:

a first electrode (141) supported by a display substrate (121);
a second electrode (154) arranged over the first electrode;
a light emitting element (140) held between the first electrode and the second electrode, the light emitting element being arranged at a predetermined position; and
a common feeder line (133) for supplying the light emitting element with a current;
an insulation film (240) being disposed at a peripheral region around the predetermined position, and
the common feeder line being covered by the insulation film.

2. A display device according to claim 1, further comprising a switching element (143) arranged correspondingly to the predetermined position.

3. A display device according to claim 2, the switching element being a transistor.

4. A display device according to claim 2 or claim 3, the switching element being connected to the first electrode.

5. A display device according to any one of claims 2 to 4, the switching element being connected to the common feeder line.

6. A display device according to any one of claims 2 to 5, at least part of the switching element being covered by the first electrode.

7. A display device according to any one of claims 2 to 6, at least part of the switching element being covered by the insulation film.
8. A display device according to any one of claims 2 to 7, the switching element being connected to the first electrode through a trunk electrode. 5
9. A display device according to claim 8, a material constituting at least part of the trunk electrode being the same as that of the first electrode. 10
10. A display device according to any one of claims 2 to 9, the switching element being connected to the common feeder line through a trunk electrode. 15

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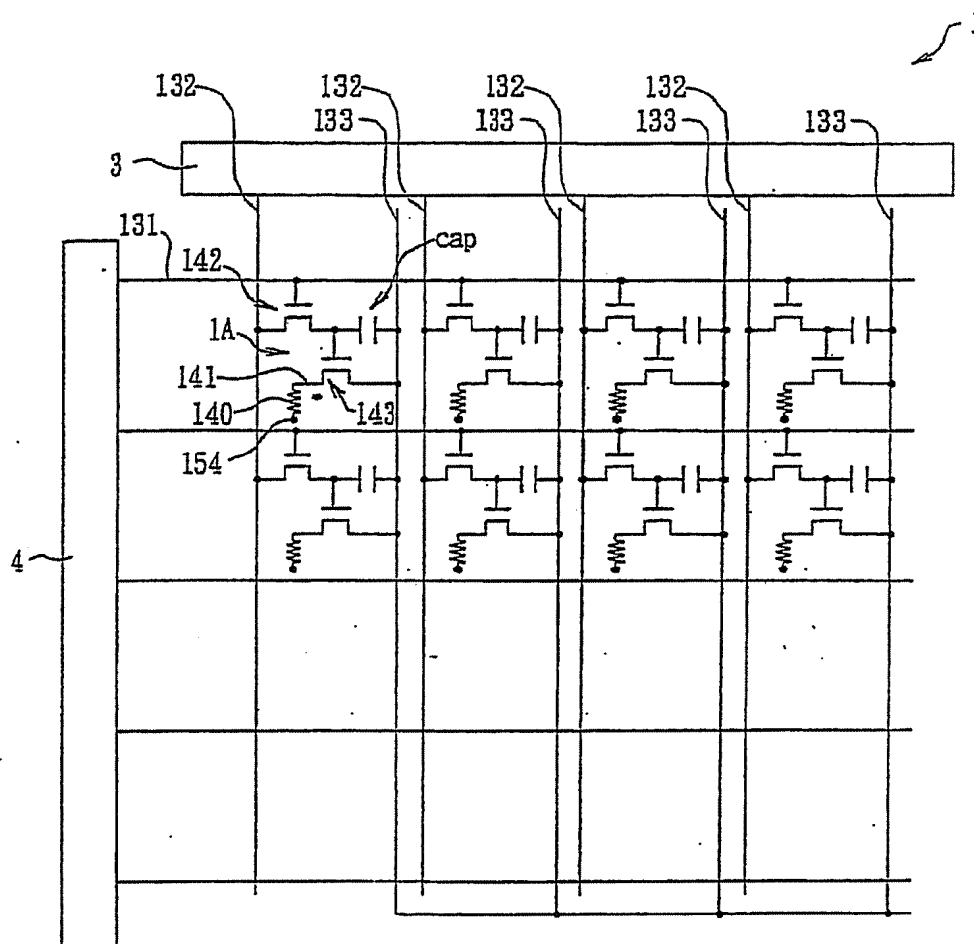
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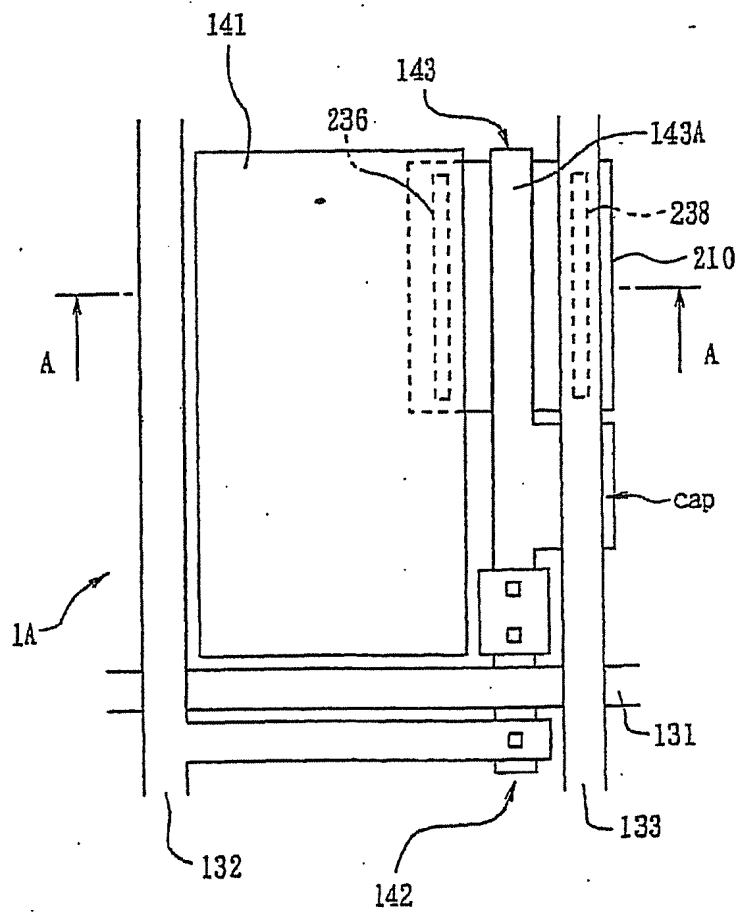
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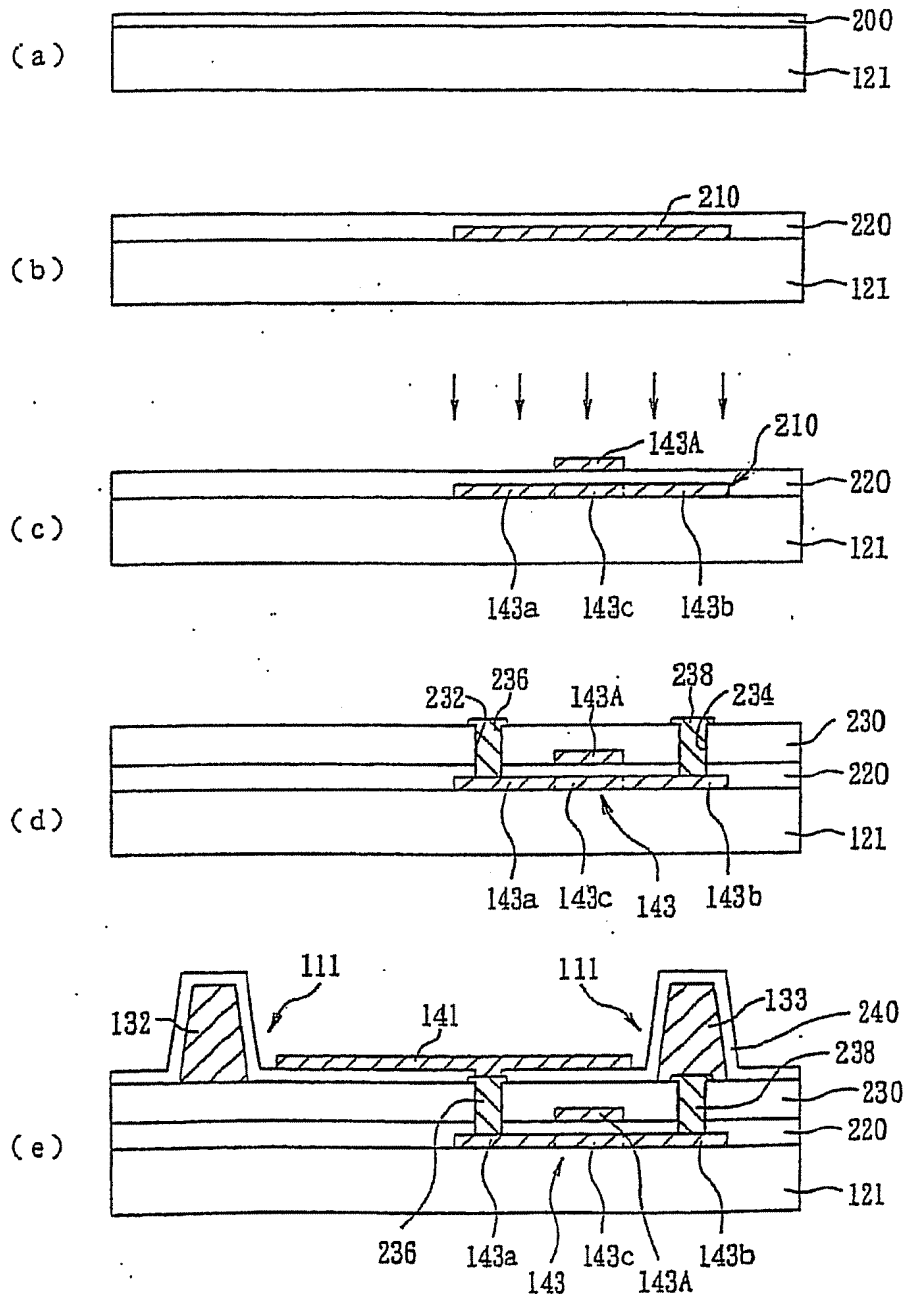
[FIG. 1]



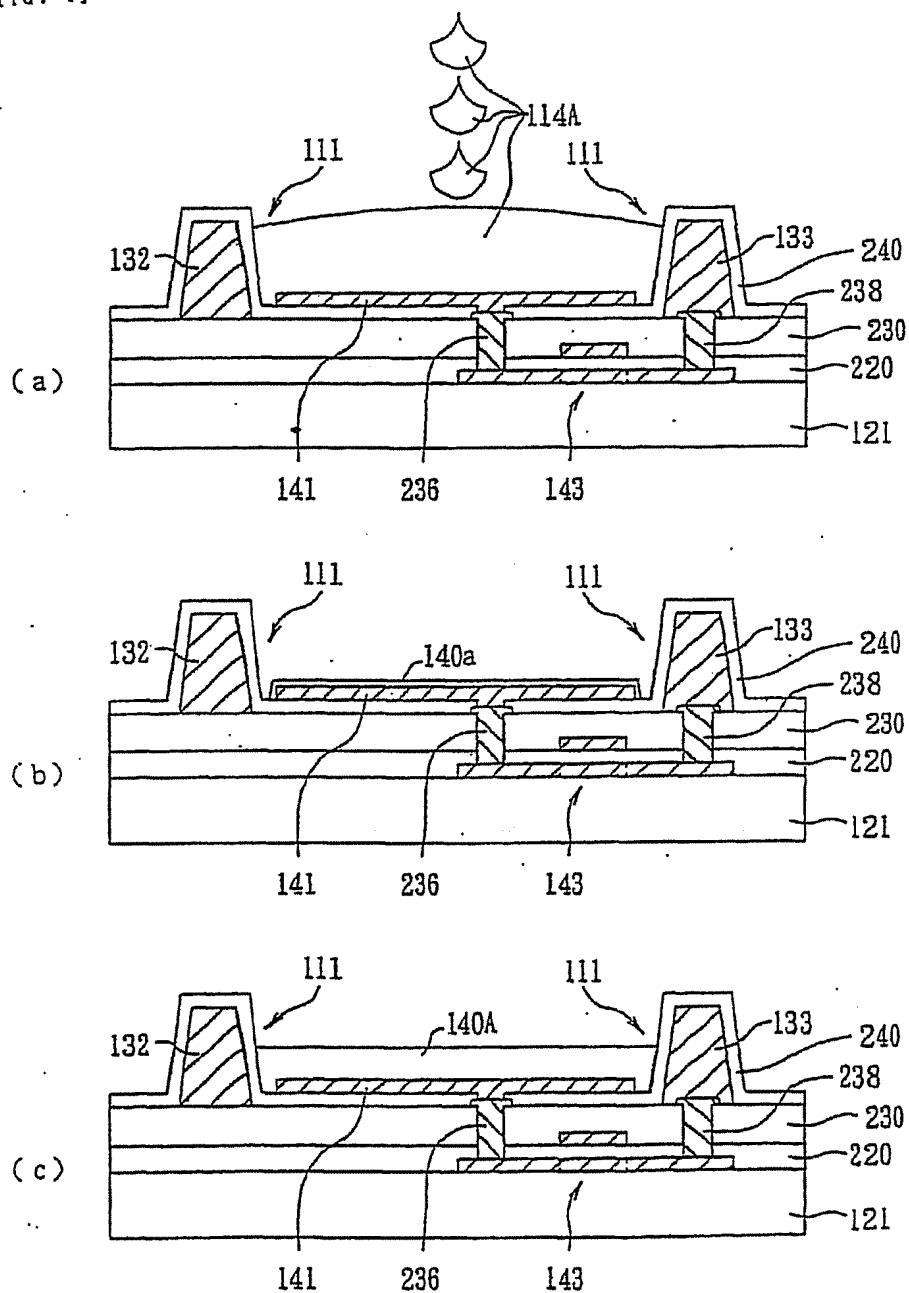
[FIG. 2]



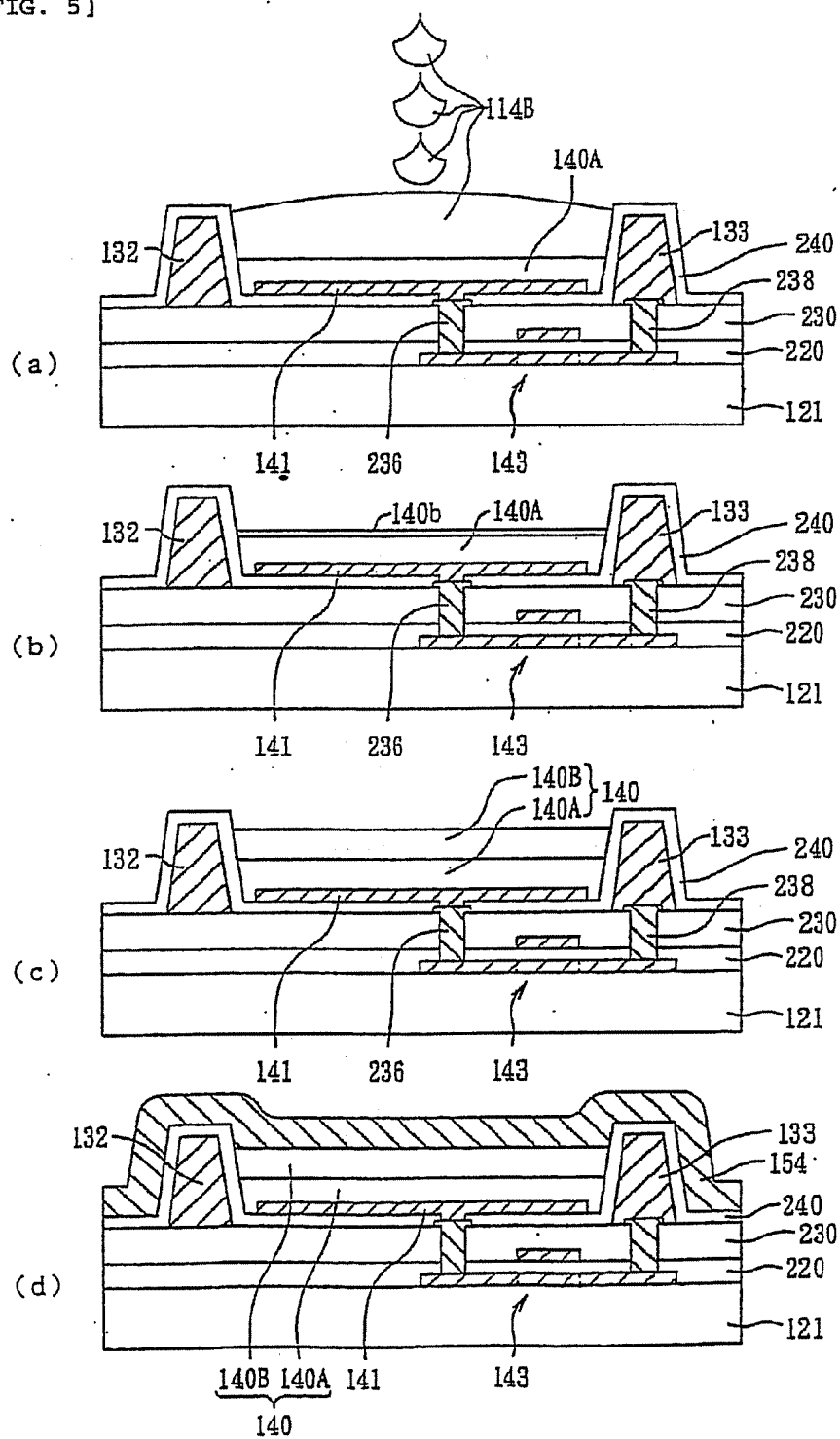
[FIG. 3]



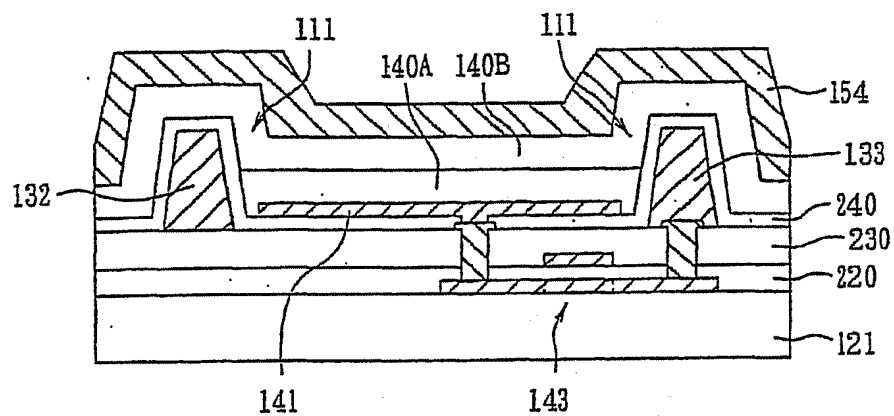
[FIG. 4]



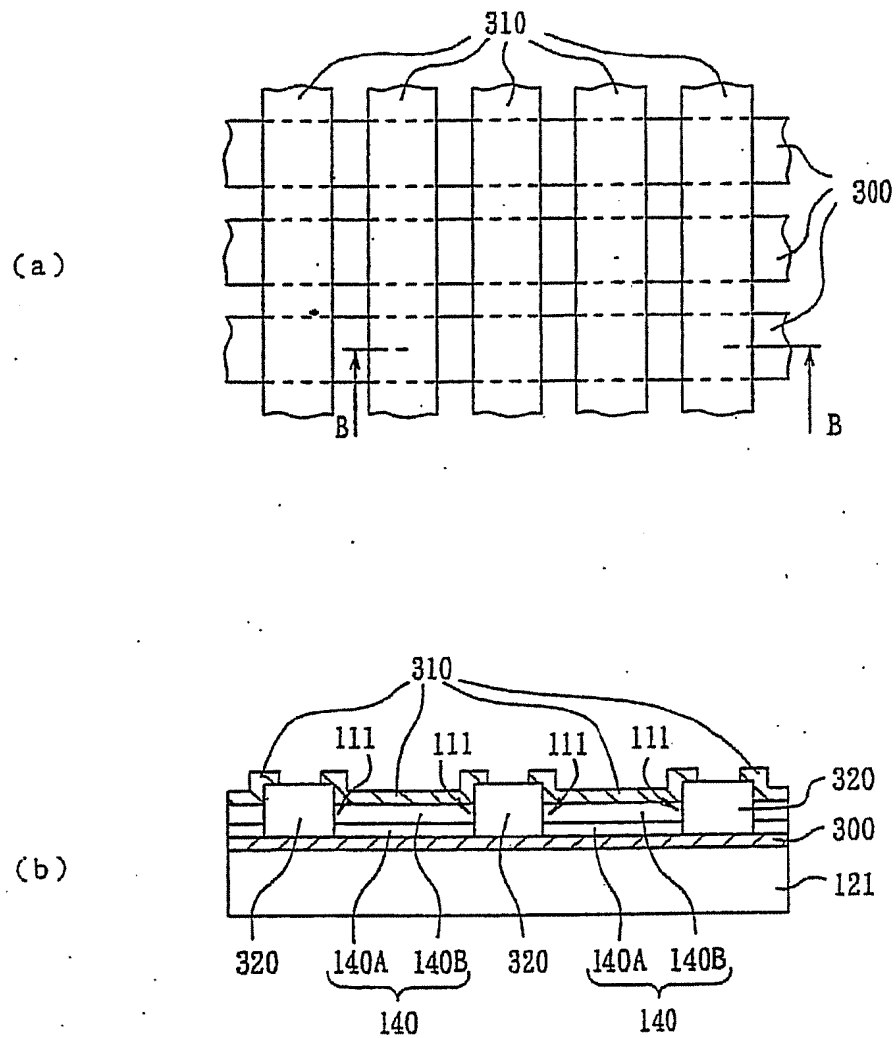
[FIG. 5]



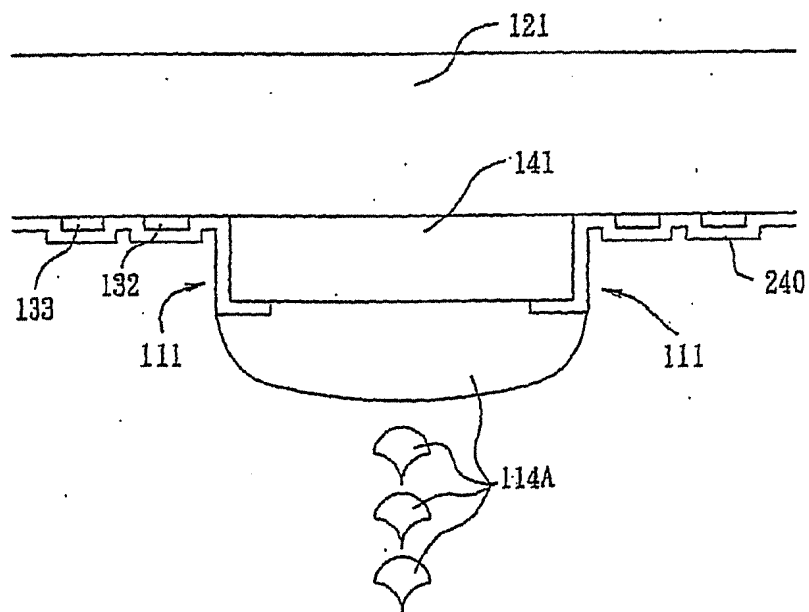
[FIG. 6]



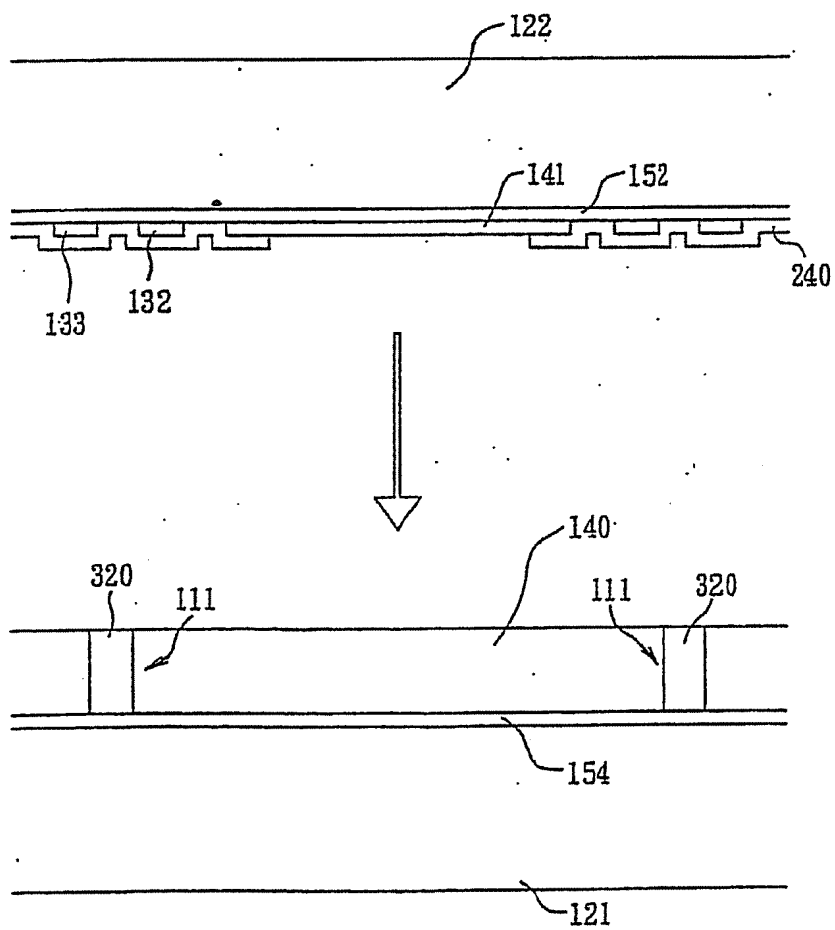
[FIG. 7]



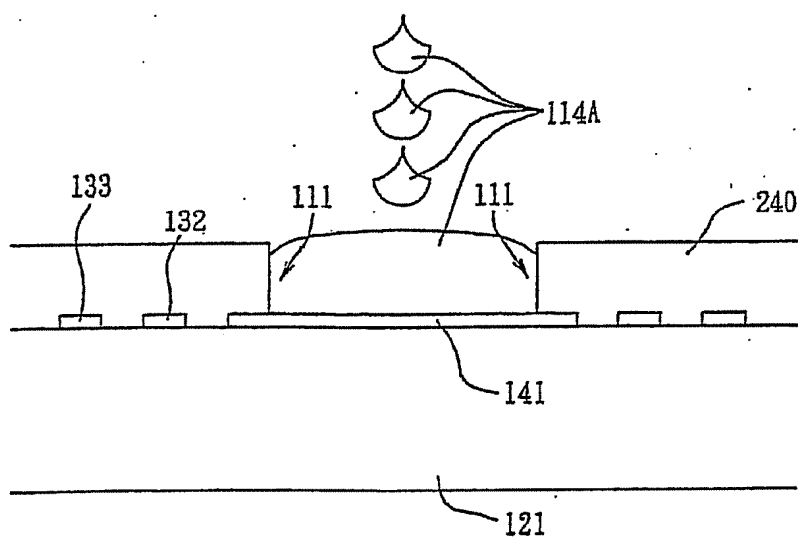
[FIG. 8]



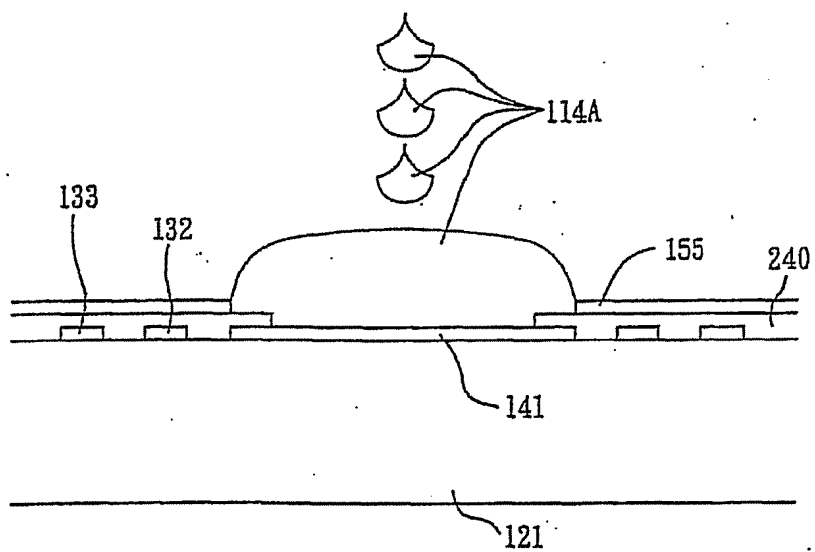
[FIG. 9]



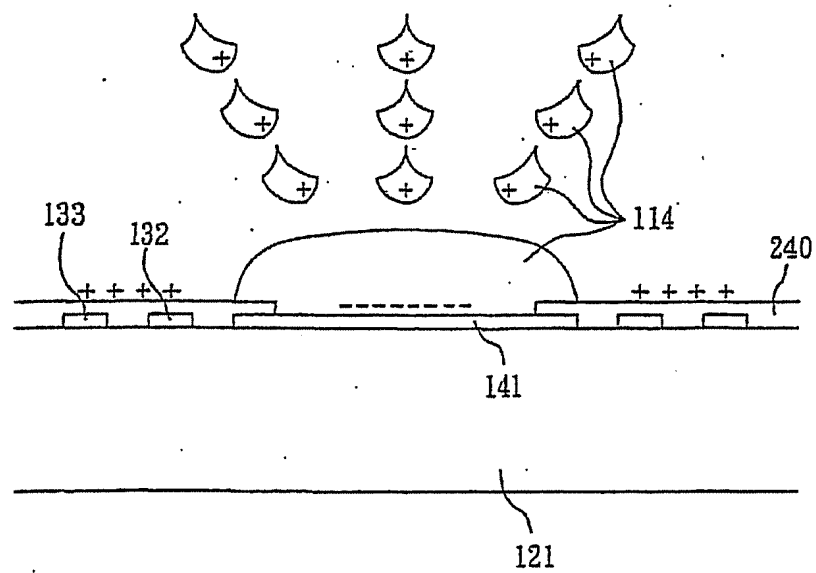
[FIG. 10]



[FIG. 11]



[FIG. 12]



[FIG. 13]

